

FROM DORMANT RAILS TO BEAUTIFUL TRAILS

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PO Box 335 | Seven Valleys, PA 17360 | 717.428.0999

info@yorkcountyrails.org | www.yorkcountyrails.org

GOODBYE RAILS!



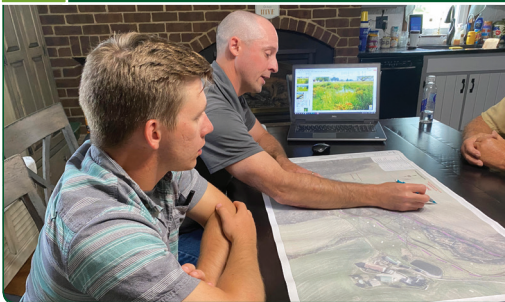
A 2018 feasibility study of the dormant rail corridor purchased in 2020 to expand the Hanover Trolley Trail revealed that corridor widths and contours were not sufficient to develop a trail with rails. Following an August 2022 public bidding process, York County Rail Trail Authority contracted with Kovalchick Corporation of Indiana, PA, for removal and salvage of the rails and other track material along the 8.5-mile rail corridor. Removal began in late September, and by year's end the corridor was quickly being transformed from choked with vegetation to cleared, ready for trail construction.

TRAIL BUILDING

Although small in scope, building 0.3 miles of trail in Spring Grove Borough marked the beginning of an estimated \$8.5 million expansion of the Hanover Trolley Trail. With funding from York County's American Rescue Fund, Explore York, and PA Department of Conservation & Recreation, JVI Group, Inc. of York Springs, PA completed the work in June. By year's end, York engineering firm C.S. Davidson, Inc. completed design and permitting of the rail corridor to Bair and a \$700,000 PA DCNR grant was received, allowing for 2023 construction of an additional 2.1 miles of trail.



TRAIL PLANNING



Planning for future phases of the Hanover Trolley Trail quickly revealed dramatic and damaging effects that nearby Oil Creek has had on the rail corridor in Heidelberg Township for decades. Funded through a grant from PA Department of Environmental Protection and matching funds from Codorus Watershed Endowment of York County Community Foundation, LandStudies of Lititz, PA, began design and permitting to restore two sites along the creek.

TRAIL PARTNERSHIPS

Many partners helped to build, maintain and promote our rail trail projects throughout 2022. Hanover, Penn Township, Spring Grove, and Jackson Township collectively donated 270 hours and \$14,088 to maintain the completed sections of the Hanover Trolley Trail, for an average maintenance cost of \$4,148 per mile. Hanover also contributed \$3,640 toward improvements of their trail section. Volunteer trail inspectors conducted 36 inspections. Volunteer hours totaled 1,462. Special projects and donations were valued at \$34,063. A complete list of 2022 donors can be found at www.yorkcountyrails.org.



CELEBRATIONS

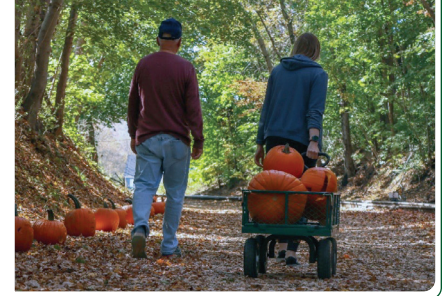


On June 2, as a prelude to National Trails Day, York County President Commissioner Julie Wheeler (front row, fourth from left) cut the ribbon on the first section of the Hanover Trolley Trail to be built on the dormant rail line purchased in 2020. The annual holiday gathering was held on December 14, which included presentation of the 2022 York County Rail Trail Awards to PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources' Lori Yeich as Government Leader, Hanover Borough as Trail Organization, and Terry and Don Reichard as Trail Champions.

FINANCIALS

2022 Operating Income totaled \$55,554 with 82% private donations and 17% special programs & projects. **2022 Operating Expenditures** totaled \$129,007 with 72% personnel, 18% professional services, and 9% office expenses.

Special thanks to the County of York for providing our office space at Hanover Junction Train Station. Sponsorships of *Trail News*, our semi-annual newsletter, were provided by Flying Feet Sports Shoes, Gung Ho Bikes, and Kessler's Bike Shop. Additional donors, including the generous sponsors of the 2022 Pumpkin Walk, can be found at www.yorkcountyrails.org.



OUTREACH



In 2022, YCRTA's ambassador committee was formed to provide assistance with staffing information booths at area festivals and other types of public engagement. Authority member Melanie Playdon chaired our Give Local York campaign and Pumpkin Walk event. Information booths were hosted at York's Go Green in the City, Hanover's SnackTowne Festival, New Freedom's Fall Festival, and York History Center's Oyster Festival. Technical assistance was offered to Carroll County, MD; Adams and Lancaster Counties, PA; and YCEA.

LEADERSHIP

Throughout 2022, leadership was provided by York County Rail Trail Authority Chairman Frank Kempf; Vice-chairman Mack Johnson; Treasurer Albert Gleichauf; Secretary Ed Hughes; members Silas Chamberlin, Sharon Dorn, Melanie Playdon, CJ Weigle, Brandon Wingert, and Ann Yost; and Executive Director Gwenyth Loose. Sharon Dorn concluded her term in November and was honored for her service in December. Ten volunteers served on the Authority's planning committee chaired by former Authority Chairman Carl Knoch, and an additional ten volunteers served on the Hanover Trolley Trail operating committee. An ambassadors committee was formed in 2022 to assist with public events.



CHAIRMAN + EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



A highlight of 2022 was the many miles we walked. With 8.5 miles of newly acquired and cleared rail corridor, showcasing the Hanover Trolley Trail expansion project became a priority. And so we walked—and enthusiasm grew. A second highlight was the June 2nd ribbon-cutting ceremony opening a 0.3-mile section of trail in Spring Grove—the first new trail to be opened to the public in 9 years. Described during the ceremony as “an acorn,” this small section marks the growth of the Hanover Trolley Trail into York County's next long-distance rail trail. Onward to 2023!